

Message Text

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43

ACTION ORM-02

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 IO-11 ISO-00 DHA-02 VOE-00 SCA-01 INSE-00

AID-05 /031 W

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P R 081132Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2626

INFO US MISSION GENEVA 1109

AMCONSUL UDORN

UNCLAS BANGKOK 9003

DEPT. FOR D/HA/ORM

E.O. 11652: M/A

TAGS: SREF

SUBJECT: ICEM/BAMGKOK REFUGEE OPERATIONS

REF: A. STATE 076047; B. STATE 078557

1. REFTEL A DESCRIBES EXPANDED ICEM ROLE. IN LIGHT OF LATE START OF PROJECTED EXPANDED PROGRAM, EMBASSY EXPECTS THAT MOST USG TEMPORARY PERSONNEL WILL REMAIN ON BOARD UNTIL JUNE 30 DEADLINE ALTHOUGH SOME PHASEOUT WILL OCCUR STARTING IN MAY.

2. CORCOS AND ROSENBLATT HAVE DISCUSSED REFTEL A AND AGREE THAT AS OF JUNE 1 EMBASSY REFUGEE SECTION SPACE RENTALS WILL BE PICKED UP BY ICEM WITH PROVISION THAT AFTER 30 JUNE IT MAY PROVE MORE PRACTICAL TO PUT OPERATIONS UNDER ONE ROOF AT WHATEVER LOCATION IS LEAST COSTLY AND MORE EFFECTIVE ICEM WILL ALSO PICK UP AN OFFICE OF ITS OWN IN UDORN AT AN ESTIMATED RENTAL OF \$250 PER MONTH. THESE ARRANGEMENTS SUBJECT TO APPROVAL ICEM GENEVA.

3. PER REF B IT IS POSSIBLE THAT ICEM WILL REQUIRE ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL TO THOSE ALREADY APPROVED BY DEPARTMENT FOR HIRE. THIS WILL BE TAKEN UP BY ICEM/BANGKOK WITH HEQDQUARTERS.

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4. WITH REGARD TO SCENARIO OUTLINED PARA 4 REFTEL A EMBASSY

AND ICEM/BANGKOK FORSEE THREE HEAVY MONTHS IN JULY, AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER. THIS PRESSURE COULD BE REDUCED SOMEWHAT IF SPONSORSHIP VERIFICATIONS FOR THE EXPANDED PROGRAM BEGIN TO ARRIVE EMBASSY BY MID-MAY AND INS SCREENING PROCEEDS IN TIMELY FASHION. EMBASSY AND ICEM FIRING UP TRANSIT CENTER WHICH WILL BE AVAILABLE JUNE 15. BEFORE THAT TIME REFUGEES IN EXCESS OF EXISTING TRANSIT CENTER CAPACITY WILL HAVE TO BE PUT UP IN HOTEL AND PROVIDED SUBSISTENCE BY ICEM AT USG EXPENSE.

5. CORCOS AND ROSENBLATT ALSO AGREED ON DESIRABILITY OF HAVING MIDDLE GRADE ICEM OFFICER BEGIN WORK AT REFUGEE SECTION WITH VIEW TO EVENTUALLY TAKING OVER AS DEPUTY OF EMBASSY REFUGEE SECTION, EITHER UNDER U.S. TEMPORARY STAFF, IF ONE OFFICER REMAINS OR UNDER ICEM PROGRAM DIRECTOR CORCOS IF NO U.S. TEMPORARY STAFF REMAIN. THIS ICEM OFFICER REQUIRED BY APRIL 20 TO OVERLAP WITH MICHAEL CARR, THE THIRD RANKING OFFICER IN REFUGEE SECTION WHO IS DEPARTING APRIL 30. CARR IS MOST INTIMATELY INVOLVED WITH ICEM-RELATED DUTIES WHICH WILL CONTINUE TO BE PERFORMED POST-JUNE 30. NEW ICEM OFFICER WILL FULFILL THIS FUNCTION AND GRADUALLY PHASE INTO ROLE OF CHIEF OF SECTION AS WELL. REQUEST DEPARTMENT ASSISTANCE IN INSURING THAT THIS ICEM OFFICER ON BOARD IN BANGKOK NOT LATER THAN APR 20.

6. ICEM/BANGKOK STRONGLY DESIRES RETAIN HUGH O'NEILL POST-JUNE 30. O'NEILL HEADING ICEM SUB-OFFICE IN UDORN. O'NEILL WILLING TO ACCEPT DETAIL TO ICEM SO LONG AS THIS DOES NOT JEOPARDIZE FUTURE AID ASSIGNMENT.
WHITEHOUSE

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